

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04870 011737Z

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T OSLO 4870

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: NORWAY INFORMS ECG MEMBERS OF IEP DECISION

REF: OSLO 4856

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND CALLED TOGETHER THE AMBASSADORS OF ECG COUNTRIES THIS MORNING, NOVEMBER 1, TO INFORM THEM OFFICIALLY THAT NORWAY HAD DECIDED TO SEEK A SPECIAL AFFILIATION ARRANGEMENT WITH IEP WHICH EXCLUDES AUTOMATICITY. HE PROVIDED US WITH TEXT OF HIS LETTER TO DAVIGNON INFORMING HIM OF DECISION PLUS TEXT OF SPEECH HE DELIVERED TO STORTING AT NOON TODAY IN WHICH HE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE DECISION (SEPTELS).

2. FRYDENLUND EXPLAINED NORWAY'S DECISION IN FRANK AND FAMILIAR TERMS, NOTING THAT, AS OIL EXPORTER, IT WOULD GET LITTLE DIRECT BENEFIT FROM AGREEMENT DRAFTED PRIMARILY FOR BENEFIT OF IMPORTERS. HE NOTED THAT HIS SPEECH DID NOT ALLUDE TO THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR NORWAY'S RELUCTANCE TO BECOME A FULL IEP MEMBER, NAMELY CONCERN TO REAWAKEN DIVISIVE MEMORIES OF EEC DEBATE, INCLUDING QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER OIL TO DETRIMENT OF SUPPORT FOR NATO.

3. FRYDENLUND EMPHASIZED THAT ASSOCIATION WAS A
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PAGE 02 OSLO 04870 011737Z

"PRACTICAL" ARRANGEMENT FOR NORWAY AND REPRESENTED

NO CHANGE OR "DRIFT" IN NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RESERVATION IN THE CASE OF NORWEGIAN NATO MEMBERSHIP (I.E. RE STATIONING OF FOREIGN TROOPS) AND ARGUED THAT NORWAY WOULD BE MUCH CLOSER TO FULL EEC MEMBERSHIP TODAY IF IT HAD ADOPTED A SIMILAR APPROACH OF SEEKING AFFILIATION FIRST. HE RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WHEN I ASKED HIM IF NORWAY LOOKED TO A STEP BY STEP APPROACH TO FULL IEP MEMBERSHIP, BUT ADDED HE WOULD NOT WISH TO BE QUOTED.

4. CONCERNING THE FORM OF ASSOCIATION, FRYDENLUND SAID THAT NORWAY WISHES A BINDING AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD TIE IT AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO THE IEP PROGRAM, EXCLUSIVE OF THE PROVISION FOR AUTOMATICITY. SPECIFICALLY, IT WOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR DEMAND RESTRAINTS, GUARANTEES TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING OIL AND MAINTAIN A STANDBY CAPACITY, AND A COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE QUANTITIES OF OIL CONSIDERABLY IN EXCESS OF IEP PROVISIONS. RESPONDING TO A REMARK BY THE DANISH AMBASSADOR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER 18, FRYDENLUND SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY THERE MIGHT BE SUCH A DELAY BUT HE HOPED THAT AN AGREEMENT MIGHT BE CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE STARTING WOULD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT IF THE AUTOMATIC PROVISIONS WERE NOT INCLUDED.

5. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR BOYESEN, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE BRIEFING, THEN AMPLIFIED FRYDENLUND'S REMARKS, BASED ON HIS OWN RECENT DISCUSSIONS OF IEP WITH BELGIAN DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVIGNON. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE OTHER ECG MEMBERS TO DECIDE WHETHER NORWAY CAN ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH IEP, BUT CLAIMED THAT DAVIGNON HOPES THE FULL MEMBERS WILL GIVE AN EARLY SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE TO NORWAY'S APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATION. SO FAR AS NORWAY'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE OIL IS CONCERNED, HE NOTED THAT IT ALREADY HAS STAND-BY CAPACITY AND IS PREPARED TO INCREASE ITS ALLOCATION COMMITMENT SUBSTANTIALLY. FRYDENLUND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 OSLO 04870 011737Z

WAS VISIBLY IRRITATED WHEN BOYESEN SPOKE OF MAKING AN ALLOCATION TEN TIMES THE ORIGINAL IEP LEVEL. (COMMENT: SINCE BOYESE TOLD ME EARLIER THAT BRATTELI AND FRYDENLUND HAVE PERSONALLY APPROVED EVERY DETAIL OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH DAVIGNON, FRYDENLUND WAS PRESUMABLY IRRITATED BECAUSE BOYFSEN HAD REVEALED TOO MUCH OF NORWAY'S NEGOTIATING HAND, NOT BECAUSE HE DISPUTED THE ACTUAL FIGURE CITED BY

BOYESE).

6. I HAVE NOT ALTERED MY VIEW THAT IT IS WISER TO ASSOCIATE NORWAY WITH THE IEP THAN TO SPURN HER OVER-TURE FOR AFFILIATION. IT WOULD SEEM IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH NORWAY AND THE OTHER ECG MEMBERS, THAT NORWAY BE MADE TO PAY AN APPROPRIATE PRICE FOR THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION. ANY FORMULA FOR OIL ALLOCATION SHOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE FOR A SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER COMMITMENT, BUT MIGHT ALSO TIE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO NORWAY'S EXPANDING PRODUCTION AND PROVEN RESERVES. IN ORDER TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT NORWAY IS THE DEMANDEUR, AND WE ARE NOT RUNNING AFTER HER TO JOIN, I BELIEVE DISCUSSION OF AFFILIATION SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO AT LEAST NOVEMBER 18 WHEN IEP IS IN PLACE. (CERTAINLY NORWAY SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY US-UK-FRG MEETING WITH DAVIGNON NOVEMBER 6 OR 7). FINALLY, TO ENSURE THAT NORWAY'S ACT OF AFFILIATION HAS MAXIMUM IMPACT WITHIN NORWAY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE AGREEMENT BE A RELATIVELY SHORT AND EASILY UNDERSTANDABLE DOCUMENT WHICH UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLIDARITY AND THE CLOSENESS OF NORWAY'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE IEP.
BYRNE

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